

Simple Sentences

7a. A **simple sentence** contains one independent clause and no subordinate clauses.

A simple sentence may have a compound subject, a compound verb, or both.

EXAMPLES ^S **Thelma** [✓] **sells** automobiles.

^S **Thelma** and ^S **Leo** [✓] **buy** and [✓] **sell** automobiles.

EXERCISE Circle each subject and underline each verb in the following sentences.

Example 1. Claudia smiled sweetly and motioned the guests inside.

1. Carmen and her aunt skated at the pond after school.
2. Iris and Phil took a train to Chicago.
3. The pattern of every snowflake is unique.
4. During the Renaissance, Italian women shaved the front part of their heads and kept the rest of their hair long.
5. Federico and Garth rowed over to the island last summer.
6. Emily Dickinson published very few poems in her lifetime.
7. After the harvest, the workers and their families have a dance and play music in the barn.
8. *Cats* takes place in a junkyard.
9. The well-known musical is based on T. S. Eliot's poems.
10. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune have rings.
11. Christina played the guitar and sang songs from Chile.
12. Leaves and branches lay beneath the trees in our front yard and blocked the driveway.
13. Jill and Erica campaigned energetically and raised the needed funds.
14. My favorite snack is a sandwich and milk.
15. Jordan should wash the dishes and put them away.
16. Lupe raked the leaves in the backyard.
17. We congratulated Rosa on her achievement.
18. I read the draft of the paper and did a thorough revision.
19. This month's school newspaper includes a list of new books in the library.
20. Where will Tim and Eric ride their bicycles this weekend?

Compound Sentences

7b. A **compound sentence** contains two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

The independent clauses of a compound sentence are usually joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*and*, *but*, *for*, *nor*, *or*, *so*, or *yet*). Independent clauses also may be joined by a semicolon.

EXAMPLES

Mark Twain wrote fiction, **and** T. S. Eliot wrote poetry.

My brother does the dishes and takes out the trash; my chores include vacuuming and dusting.

EXERCISE A Each of the following compound sentences contains two independent clauses joined by a comma and a conjunction. Underline each subject once and each verb twice. Then, circle the conjunction.

Example 1. Kiyo likes the beach, and she often goes there with her brothers.

1. The ice-covered sidewalk was slippery, and several people fell down.
2. Some students ate in the cafeteria, but others went outside in the sunshine.
3. The talk show host was silly, but his show had a large audience.
4. The waves were enormous, yet the expert surfer rescued his new surfboard.
5. Mr. Kumamoto has uncovered some great fossils, for he is an experienced fossil hunter.

EXERCISE B Rewrite each of the following pairs of simple sentences as one compound sentence. Use the coordinating conjunction in parentheses, and write your sentences above the original sentences. Be sure to add the correct punctuation where necessary.

Example 1. *Ants are small, but they are powerful.*
Ants are small. They are powerful. (*but*)

6. We can go to a movie. We can watch a videotape at home. (*or*)
7. Angel wrote a poem about his girlfriend. He did not show it to her. (*but*)
8. Dark clouds gathered above the baseball field. Rain fell steadily. (*and*)
9. The bears stole all our food. We left the campground early. (*so*)
10. Outside, a storm howled. We were warm inside the igloo. (*yet*)
11. Aretha has never taken a drawing class. She can sketch almost anything. (*but*)
12. They wanted to surprise her. They gave her a gift the day before her birthday. (*so*)
13. Joe can wait for us at the entrance. He can go in and find us a seat. (*or*)
14. Suddenly, Sparky ran to the window. We wondered what he saw. (*and*)
15. Last night the house felt chilly. I drank hot tea and curled up with a book. (*so*)

Simple or Compound?

7a. A **simple sentence** contains one independent clause and no subordinate clauses.

7b. A **compound sentence** contains two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

The independent clauses of a compound sentence are often joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction, but they also may be joined by a semicolon.

SIMPLE SENTENCE I went outside and looked at the sky.

COMPOUND SENTENCES The sky looked threatening, **so** I expected a storm.

The sky looked threatening; I expected a storm.

EXERCISE A For each of the following sentences, underline each subject once and each verb twice. Then, identify the sentence by writing *S* for *simple sentence* or *CD* for *compound sentence* on the line provided.

Example CD 1. Geronimo was an Apache; he struggled to preserve the Apache way of life.

_____ 1. Geronimo was born in No-doyohn Canyon, Mexico.

_____ 2. Geronimo defended his homeland against colonization by Mexicans and North Americans.

_____ 3. Mexican bounty hunters killed his mother, his wife, and his children in 1858.

_____ 4. Geronimo wanted revenge, so he gathered a band of men.

_____ 5. He led the band of Apaches in raids against Mexican settlements.

_____ 6. The Mexicans called him Geronimo; that name in English is Jerome.

_____ 7. The Apaches used his name as their battle cry.

_____ 8. In 1874, U.S. authorities forcibly moved about four thousand Apaches to a reservation.

_____ 9. Geronimo led these Apaches in attacks on U.S. settlements and soldiers.

_____ 10. The United States sent five thousand soldiers after Geronimo, but the small group of Apaches did not surrender for more than four months.

EXERCISE B For each of the following sentences, underline each subject once and each verb twice. Then, identify the sentence by writing *S* for *simple sentence* or *CD* for *compound sentence* above the item number.

Example S [1] The army finally tracked Geronimo to his camp in the mountains.

[11] He was imprisoned in Florida and later in Oklahoma; he never returned to Arizona and to his Apache life. [12] He told his story to S. M. Barrett in 1905–1906, and Barrett wrote a book about it. [13] Geronimo would not permit a stenographer at the interviews, so Barrett took notes.

[14] The name of this book is *Geronimo: His Own Story*. [15] Geronimo died in 1909; he was a courageous man to the end.

Complex Sentences

7c. A **complex sentence** contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause.

A subordinate clause cannot stand alone as a sentence. The following words are often used to introduce subordinate clauses: *who, whose, whom, which, that, after, as, because, if, since, before, when*.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE I often go to the library

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE because I like to read

COMPLEX SENTENCE **Because I like to read,** I often go to the library.

EXERCISE A The sentences in the following paragraph are complex sentences. For each sentence, underline the independent clause once and the subordinate clause twice.

Example [1] Mr. Morales, who is my English teacher, encouraged me to be a writer.

[1] Since I was five years old, I have read in bed at night. [2] For my twelfth birthday I received *A Light in the Attic*, which is a book of poems. [3] Before I go to sleep, I sometimes read my favorite poems to my little brother. [4] As he listens to me, he closes his eyes and falls asleep. [5] When he wakes up in the morning, he usually asks about the ending of a poem. [6] I may be a writer or an editor when I grow up. [7] My Aunt Sabrina, who lives in Dallas, is a copyeditor for a newspaper. [8] If I study hard, I can become an editor, too. [9] A job as an editor makes sense for me because I love words. [10] The books that I love most sit on a special shelf in my room.

EXERCISE B The sentences in the following paragraph are complex sentences. For each sentence, underline the independent clause once and the subordinate clause twice.

Example [1] When I read some Greek myths last summer, I learned a lot of interesting things.

[11] As I read, I learned about Arachne, a character in a famous Greek myth. [12] In the stories, she weaves tapestries that are very beautiful. [13] Because Arachne is such a good weaver, she begins to boast about her skill. [14] Athena, who is the goddess of arts and crafts, hears about Arachne's boastfulness and decides to pay Arachne a visit. [15] After Athena arrives, she warns Arachne not to be so boastful. [16] Because Arachne refuses to listen, the goddess Athena challenges her to a weaving contest. [17] When the contest that Athena proposes ends in a draw, Athena destroys Arachne's tapestry and loom. [18] Because she feels both guilty and insulted, Arachne dies. [19] Because Athena feels sorry for Arachne, she brings Arachne back to life and turns her into a spider. [20] According to the myth, spiders, who are also excellent weavers, are descended from Arachne.

Compound or Complex?

7b. A **compound sentence** contains two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

7c. A **complex sentence** contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE My mom drinks coffee

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE because she likes hot beverages

COMPOUND SENTENCE My mom will drink tea, but she prefers coffee.

COMPLEX SENTENCE Because she likes hot beverages, my mom drinks coffee.

EXERCISE For each of the following sentences, underline each independent clause once and each subordinate clause twice. Then, identify the sentence by writing *CD* for *compound* or *CX* for *complex* on the line provided.

Example CX 1. Because the cardinal was bright red, I could see it clearly.

- _____ 1. When Abe Lincoln gave a stump speech, he stood on a real stump.
- _____ 2. Many trees lose their leaves in the fall, and they look cold and forlorn.
- _____ 3. When we lived in southern Maryland, we visited Annapolis often.
- _____ 4. Brian is mild tempered, and he makes friends easily.
- _____ 5. If you move your knight to that square, I will capture him.
- _____ 6. My new wool sweater shrank when I washed it in hot water.
- _____ 7. Don't give me any excuses; I don't want to hear them!
- _____ 8. If I wash the dishes, will you cook the meal?
- _____ 9. Cameron, who is my cousin, is the new captain of the soccer team.
- _____ 10. I dropped my sandwich on the floor, so I threw it in the garbage.
- _____ 11. The movie was really scary, yet I could not stop watching.
- _____ 12. Janet Jackson, whose music I enjoy, will be in town next week.
- _____ 13. I washed the rug with detergent, but the red stain would not come out.
- _____ 14. Since you asked me nicely, I will lend you some paper for the test.
- _____ 15. Give your dog a bath, or do not let him inside the house.
- _____ 16. Call me tonight, and we'll make plans for the weekend.
- _____ 17. I'll ask my mother after she gets home from work.
- _____ 18. The book that he is reading is about ancient Egypt.
- _____ 19. My grandfather, whom I respect very much, will be ninety this summer.
- _____ 20. Jane is eager to begin her new music class, but she'll have to wait another week.